

Report to Town Assembly June 22, 2020

Community Planning Committee—Jennifer Borders reporting

In our June Committee meeting Mark Wood stepped down as Chair but is staying on as a member. Jennifer Borders was elected as the new Chair.

Community Planning continues its work to clarify the Committee description and provide guidance for current and future Committees. As previously reported, this will not entail changing the current description rather creating a “Guidance Statement” to help focus the Committee’s work. Plans are to get feedback on the statement from the other committees and the Trustees and to bring the statement to Town Meeting in September for discussion and a vote.

An information session took place February 9th at the BWVC to familiarize newcomers with Arden’s system of government and to introduce/give a platform to candidates running for the March elections. It was entitled “Direct: The Heart of Arden Government”. Future sessions are planned, but currently on hold due to Covid.

The zoning of the commercial property (historically known as Steak Shop. Currently Oddporium) located at Marsh Rd and Harvey Rd was addressed and the Committee did not see a need to change its current mixed-use commercial/residential status.

Work continues on developing a new web site for Arden in conjunction with Delaware’s Government Information Center. They will provide design, training and free hosting.

The Committee voted to form a new sub-committee: the Governance Education Sub-Committee. Its mission is to promote Arden's direct democracy by increasing awareness of and participation in Village governance by all residents through open, ongoing and diverse communications opportunities. The sub-committee has 3 goals.

1. Publish informative articles and sponsor public meetings to familiarize residents with Arden's governance and promote understanding of governing documents such as Deed of Trust, Town Charter and Bylaws.
2. Facilitate the understanding and education of committee members with respect to the committees' roles and responsibilities within Arden's government.
3. Collaborate with Secretary of Town Assembly to locate, collect, organize and scan relevant documents as well as maintain this information in a secure, central government location with archival intentions.

The sub-committee will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members, appointed by the Community Planning Committee. Terms are one year and reviewed annually in the first meeting of the calendar year. The Governance Education Sub-Committee will carry on work with the following two projects: the 302 Stories and the GIC Website. The Community Planning Committee will appoint members at the Committee meeting on July 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Anyone interested in being on the sub-committee should contact a Community Planning Committee member prior to that meeting.

Motion:

"That the Community Planning Committee form a new sub-committee called the "Governance Education Sub-Committee" with the purpose of increasing awareness of and participation in Village governance."